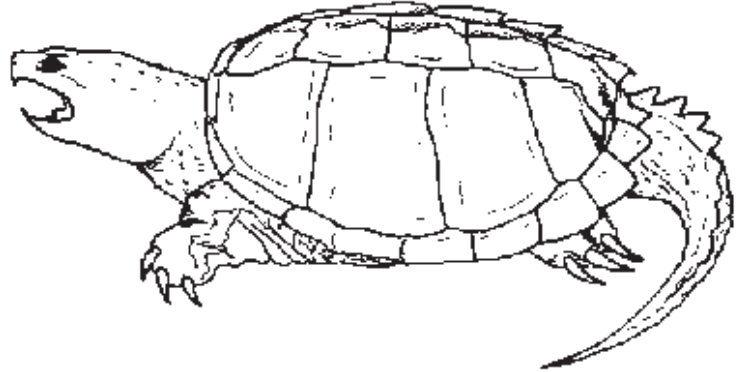


Did you know?

How does a Snapping Turtle protect itself when it is scared?

The Snapping Turtle is the largest freshwater turtle in Canada. Unlike most other Ontario turtles, it cannot withdraw into its shell for protection when threatened. Therefore, on land this turtle's only defense from predators is to snap repeatedly and scare them away.



What is one of the Jefferson Salamander's secret defense tactics?

The Jefferson Salamander can shed its tail when threatened. The muscles in the detached tail twitch, distracting the attacker and giving them a chance to get away! Jefferson salamanders have a secret defense tactic and can produce toxic ooze that comes from skin glands at the base of their tail.

What is a Spring Peeper?

Spring Peepers are tiny but loud tree frogs that are more often heard than seen. Once the ice starts to melt, their peep...peep...peep sound is a welcome first sign of spring. Peepers fill their vocal sacs with air until they look like a balloon, then they let out a "peep" as they release the air. They "peep" about once every second.

These chirps can often be heard as far as a kilometer away. Spring Peepers are nocturnal, hiding from many predators during the day and emerging at night to feed on ants, beetles, flies, and spiders.

What will the Great Horned Owl eat that other birds of prey won't?

The Great Horned Owl is one of our biggest owls and hunts small mammals like mice, rabbits, squirrels and even skunks! The Great Horned Owl is nocturnal and is probably best known for the large tufts of feathers on its head that look like horns.



There are so many interesting facts about nature. Here some secrets of nature!

What makes Puffballs puff?

Puffballs are a type of mushroom commonly found in meadows, fields, and forests, usually in late summer and autumn. Giant puffballs are usually white and round and are attached to the ground with little or no stem. They get the name “puffball” from the millions of tiny, brown, dust-like spores (reproductive plant cells) that burst out when the full-grown mushroom splits open or when raindrops land on it.

What is Duckweed and why is it so important?

Duckweed is the world’s smallest flowering plant. It looks like a green carpet resting on top of the water and is a great place for frogs to hide! It is an important food for both fish and wild waterfowl. Duckweed is also a source of food for small creatures that in turn are eaten by birds and fish.

What do Sassafras leaves smell like when they are crushed?

When the leaves are crushed, they smell like cinnamon. Sassafras oil is made from the root, bark or the fruit. It was used as a fragrance in perfumes and soaps, and for making sassafras tea and candy flavoring. The smell of sassafras oil is said to make an excellent repellent for mosquitoes and other insects.

What happens to the Sensitive Fern at the first sign of cold weather?

Sensitive Fern got its name from the early settlers who noticed that the fern was very sensitive to frost and died back quickly at the first sign of cold temperatures. It is a perennial fern that has a rather un-fernlike appearance. It grows in damp, wet areas in meadows, along wood edges and stream banks. Fossils of similar-looking ferns have been found, dating back to the time of the dinosaurs.

